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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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PATENT

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In re application of:

Carlo M. Croce

Serial No.: 09/357,675

Filed: July 20, 1999

Group Art Unit: 1632

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Examiner: Scott David Priebe

For:

NITRILASE HOMOLOGS

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

In response to the Office Action issued May 9, 2002, Applicants respectfully request entry of the following amendments, without prejudice.

In the Specification:

Please delete the paragraph beginning on line 4 of page 6 and ending on line 5 of page 6 and replace it with the following new paragraph.

Fig. 6. A splice variant of the highly conserved human, murine, *D. melanogaster*, and *C. elegans nit1* cDNA sequence (SEQ ID NO:1) and the polypeptides and peptides deduced from the nucleotide sequence (SEQ ID NO:25 through SEQ ID NO:31).